

enormous old Marri tree. It all seemed to happen in an instant, the Brush looked as if it was going to crash straight into the tree, but at the very last instant it leaped sideways to the left and avoided it. Not so the dog, with his eyes glued to the Brush and about to pounce on it, he hurtled into the tree and was killed instantly. On examination he was found to have a broken neck and one of his front legs was also broken.

The interesting thing about this incident is, I think, that the dog died as the result of a planned or predetermined action by the little Brush Wallaby. Doubtless this tactic had been acquired and passed on when trying to shake off pursuit by hunting dingoes which even at that time were very numerous along the Blackwood.

For the record the following mammals were numerous and frequently seen along the Blackwood at that time:—

Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus fuliginosus*

Brush or Black-gloved Wallaby, *Macropus irma*.

Quokka, *Setonix brachyurus*.

Woylie, *Bettongia penicillata*.

Ringtail Possum, *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*.

Brush-tailed Possum, *Trichosurus vulpecula*.

Dingo, *Canis familiaris*.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Long-necked Tortoises in the City of Perth.**—It should be recorded, while still remembered, that, until the Perth foreshore was lost to reclamation, Long-necked Tortoises (*Chelodina longicollis*), may still have sought egg-laying sites in the city area. I can recall, as late as about 1950, these creatures heading determinedly up William Street. If diverted up a lane they were temporarily confused but always tried to find a route roughly northward. Most must have perished on the roads or become hopelessly lost in city lanes.

Perth, north of the Swan River, was a city of lakes and swamps when it was founded in 1829. Subsequently most disappeared with development (see the account by D. L. Serventy, *Emu*, 47, 1948: 241), but while they existed the area must have been a haven to freshwater tortoises. One interesting near-city place where they still survive is Shenton Park Lake and the animals make their way to the gardens of neighbouring residents to lay their eggs. The annual crossing of Herbert Road for this purpose has become something of a scientific tourist attraction and is occasionally featured in the press. The Subiaco City Council now erects road-signs during this period warning motorists to avoid running over the tortoises.

—DAVID HUTCHISON, Wembley Downs.

**Freckled Duck at Yanchep.**—On 31st January, 1971, I was called to Loch McNess, Yanchep National Park, to identify a strange duck, but unfortunately by the time I arrived it had swum out too far to pick up with my field glasses. On the 27th February, Mr. John Elphinstone, a ranger in the park, and a member of the R.A.O.U., reported with great excitement that there was a Freckled Duck, (*Stictonetta naevosa*) amongst the Black Duck on the bank in the feed area. We returned together and there he was, quite unmistakable, and remarkably tame for a duck of a species usually regarded as shy. Dr. Tom Spence, who came up that afternoon, considered this duck to be an immature male. He was most reluctant to fly and had to be driven off the water by Tom in a boat, when he only flew a short distance. It is possible that this duck, he was identified as being of the same species as that reported on the 31st January, was a pricked bird, that had taken shelter at Yanchep to recover after the shooting season. He stayed with us, spending most of the day